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Glycerine.....	2	parts by volume
Distilled Water.....	3	" " "
Glacial Acetic Acid.....	2	" " "
Absolute Alcohol.....	1	" " "

The author has noted a common teratologic, if not pathologic, condition in the shell, usually that of *Quadrula quadrula* Raf. (= *Q. lachrymosa* (Lea)) and also of *Anondonta grandis* Say, that is, an extremely emarginated postventral portion, due no doubt to the attacks of ecto-parasites along the mantle margins at this point. Why the attacks should be mostly made at this point is a question. Other results of this parasitism is a splitting of the gills from this post-ventral point to the dorsal side. From the fact that this dividing of the gills and the "tucking in" of the shell take place equally on both sides we would ascribe the cause to that of sympathetic nervous reaction. Probably many of the so-called new species or varieties that have crept into our catalogues on *Naiades* are only these pathologic or teratologic individuals and as a result "confusion has been made more confused."

Although the lacustrine forms of *Naiades* are more greatly parasitized than those of the fluviatile due to more favorable ecologic conditions for the parasites, yet the formation of free pearls are more rare in the former since these are usually the thin-shelled forms that do not need to secrete such a limy or nacreous supply from the mantle glands. The thick-shelled forms of the lake or sluggish stream, however, are, as a rule, good pearl producers since the greater abundance of parasites under such conditions insure greater occasion for pearl formation.

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## THE BIRD LOVER.

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BY BROTHER ALPHONSUS, C. S. C.

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The lover of birds is an enthusiast. If he were not, he would not be a lover of birds. Only those whose interest in any subject is intense and unabating can in truth be said to have enthusiasm in its pursuit. What, it may be asked, will lead a person to spend his precious time upon some matter apparently unworthy of such a sacrifice? There is in the thing something that awakens a

responsive sentiment. An elevated feeling, as we know instinctively, is not the result of calculation or forethought, but comes upon us spontaneously—just how we do not understand. By cultivation, the awakened sentiment grows in intensity, and the emotional element contributes not a little to the persistent devotion that is a characteristic of enthusiasm.

Now let us apply these ideas to the subject of bird life. There is in all living things much of paramount interest, and worthy of man's serious study. Life, in all its grades, is a great mystery, and to investigate its myriad phases, naturally challenges the astuteness of the human intellect. And when those beautiful creatures which we call birds are the particular form of life chosen for patient observation, we have an interest that quickly grows to be intensely satisfying. So much is manifest in the life of a bird that both our senses and our intellect find matter for almost indefinite investigation.

No doubt most persons at first do not acquire a scientific interest in birds, but are led gradually from the emotional to the philosophic aspect of the subject. I suppose also that individual temperament will decide what amount of attention each one will eventually give to the aesthetic and scientific phases of ornithology. In this matter, I think much will depend upon one's leisure for the pursuit. If one cannot observe regularly, there is less likelihood that anything more than an aesthetic interest in birds will be developed. But even this is well worth the time that is spent in studying the habits of the many species of birds which are found in our parks or in the country.

What pure pleasure is there in strolling leisurely into the country, with only nature for our companion. As soon as we reach the limits of the city, we are greeted by the clear notes of the Song Sparrow. And as we advance a little farther, the Field and Vesper Sparrows will repeat for us their charming strains. Another songster that is sure to challenge our attention is the Warbling Vireo, almost as persistent a singer as the Song Sparrow. And if our walk is taken in the month of May then the bird chorus will bewilder us. Catbirds, Thrashers, Wrens, Warblers, Finches, Grosbeaks, Orioles, and many other species are then in full song.

As compared with those who have an aesthetic interest in birds, there are few with opportunity for a scientific study of ornithology. It has, however, been a matter of wonder to the

writer that many who were brought up on farms, or who have lived in the country for much of their lives, have yet so little interest of any kind in bird life. Naturally we should expect our scientific ornithologists to come from this class. Why are so few of such persons interested in birds? I think there are various reasons for their apathy to so delightful a pursuit. Although they live in the country, their sympathy with nature remains undeveloped. They lead lives that are as artificial as those of the city. The newspaper, their own avocation or profession, consume all their time; or if they have any leisure, it may be spent in novel reading or frequenting the shows of the neighboring town. Thus most persons become slaves to the conventions of civilization.

Can anything be done to lessen this dullness and insensibility to the superior pleasures that nature affords her devotees? Yes, there seems now to be an excellent opportunity to well-nigh revolutionize the sad condition that has existed for generations. This is to get our young people interested in bird life, and happily to do so is a pleasant task for teacher or friend. The young are born naturalists, waiting only for the necessary encouragement in order to develop their endowments.

Beyond doubt the youthful student of ornithology is likely to become a true bird lover. Such habits of mind as attention, observation, judgment, appreciation of the beautiful being in the process of formation, the impulse to persevering efforts to gain all the facts of this branch of natural history is strong and stimulating. Probably no other pursuit is as fruitful in opportunities to cultivate these indispensable requisites of an educated man. At the same time, it is also probably true, that hardly any other study is less irksome than the observations of the ornithologist. So while accumulating valuable scientific knowledge, the student of bird life is strengthening his mental power continually. How much better is it for the boy or youth who acquires a taste for ornithology to spend his free hours in such a way as to develop his body and mind than to fritter away the precious years of his early life in unfruitful diversions.

Incidentally many other advantages will be the result of the persistent labors of the bird lover. Fresh air, a good appetite, no loss of sleep, and above all an unfailing cheerfulness are but a few of these advantages. Nothing need be said to prove how great a gain it is to possess these benefits. I cannot refrain, however,

from enlarging a little on the last and best of the blessings just enumerated. The excellent health that is always enjoyed by a naturalist gives him the fine virtue of cheerfulness. If you meet him on one of his rambles, you will be sure to receive a friendly greeting. And should you desire a little diversion yourself, take a walk with him, and you will soon forget all annoyances and become infected with his buoyancy of mind and heart. Fortunate is the community that has a number of naturalists to keep it fresh and sanguine.

But the bird lover confers yet more benefits upon his neighbors and friends. His knowledge of bird life will make him welcome to bird societies, either local or in places distant from his home. So soon as any person is known to be interested in birds, his acquaintance will be eagerly sought by other bird lovers. And there is in all lovers of birds a sympathy for one another that is admirable. Although strangers in other respects, as soon as ornithologists meet they are at home in each other's company. They seem also to possess certain traits of temperament that make their society congenial to themselves. Next to religion, nothing can develop sympathy for all of God's creatures more readily than the love of nature.

Let me now, before ending this short paper, emphasize the educational value of the study of birds. It has been admitted by noted educators that the system of instruction in our schools, colleges, and universities does not give the fullest development possible to their students. Too much stress is laid upon class exercises and tests, and too little upon the close companionship with nature. The opportunities for the delightful study of the varied phenomena of nature are greatly undervalued. All the requisites of an open and sympathetic mind are found in the study of the creatures that live in our midst. Briefly the bird lover is introduced into a world that is well-nigh limitless in the interest it can arouse in its devotees. Beauty, song, instinct, habits, migration, distribution are but a few of the aspects of ornithology. Every bird that flies within view at once enlists the attention of the observer, who knows that he may learn something new and noteworthy. Try to estimate, if you can, the total effect of a life devoted to the study of birds. If there is an earthly paradise, it will be found in the fresh fields and secluded woods where the birds raise their sweet voices in praise of their Maker.